

Buyout team working to arrange property appraisals

Several consultants and subcontractors are assisting Galveston County with the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, an effort by the County to remove Ike-damaged properties from the floodplain.

The first phase of the buyout project encompasses the beachfront on Bolivar Peninsula, as well as the community of Gilchrist. The County's grant consultant for the project – Beck Disaster Recovery – is in the process of contacting these property owners to alert them to the next steps.

An appraisal of each property will be required, and homeowners interested in the program have been asked to compile several documents that will be helpful in determining the appropriate value. This includes pre- and post-storm photographs, prior appraisals, surveys, purchase contracts, closing statements, MLS printouts, and lists of repairs or improvements made prior to and after the storm.

The independent appraisal firm of IRR-Residential Appraisers & Consultants has been contracted to assist Galveston County with this process. Also working with the County on the buyout program, in addition to Beck Disaster and IRR, are Jeff Ward and Associates and Southland Title.

The buyout program is entirely voluntary. More information can be obtained by calling the buyout hotline at 866-957-2325. Please visit this website regularly for updates.